

Jesus Said What?

Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit

(Part Three)

(Matthew 12:22-32)

- Introduction:
1. Ills. of riding bikes with Tom and him saying, “I hate the Holy Spirit.”
 2. This may be among the most frightening verses in the Bible.
 3. The idea of wanting to be saved and being rejected because I crossed some line that will cause God to withhold forgiveness has to grab the attention of anyone wanting to go to Heaven.

I. Suggestions as to the Identity of this Sin

- A. There are many theories about the identity of this sin.
- B. Some have said it is...
 1. Murder.
 2. Any willful sin (Mortal and Venial Sins)
 3. Suicide.
 4. Any sin in which one dies without repentance.

II. Foundation Work First

- A. Some truths cannot be grasped or understood without having some foundational knowledge of that topic.
 1. Must have general math before algebra; geometry before Algebra II.
 2. Must learn the alphabet before you can write.
 3. Same is true with biblical truths (John 16:12).
- B. In coming to earth, Jesus had the task of convincing people that he was the Son of God.
- C. He set out to validate his claims by his behavior, teaching, and power.
 1. Behavior – He was sinless and he did good (Hebrews 4:15; Acts 10:38).
 2. Teaching – Taught with authority (Matthew 5:29; Mark 1:22).
 3. Power – He performed miracles (John 20:30; 21:25; 15:22-24).
- D. This groundwork needs to be understood when we begin to address the unpardonable sin as discussed in Matthew 12:22-32).

III. The Context of the Sin

- A. (Matthew 12:22-32; Mark 3:28-30; Luke 12:10).
- B. The unpardonable sin is identified in this passage.
 1. It is blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.
 2. Blasphemy is a spoken sin.
 3. In particular, they were saying that Jesus was performing his miracles by the power of Satan.
- C. So, the question is not so much, “what is the unpardonable sin?” for that is answered. The greater question is why is this sin unpardonable?
 1. It is because this sin represents a state of being; a condition of the heart that is past the point of feeling (Ephesians 4:19; 1 Timothy 4:2).
 2. God is not willing that any should perish (2 Peter 3:9; Hebrews 6:6).
 3. The progression of God’s revelation – God, Jesus, Holy Spirit. Nothing more.

4. This is not a slip of the tongue, a weak moment in one's life, but an ongoing rejection within one who has so hardened himself against God that he will not, cannot be touched by the truth.

- Conclusion:
1. More to the point, could I have committed this sin?
 - a. Well, if you're worried about it, you haven't.
 - b. Those who are guilty of this sin are so hardened, they can't be touched or reached with the gospel.
 - c. So, this should give you peace of mind.
 2. However, if you are refusing to repent, procrastinating in doing the right thing, you had better think seriously about the possibility of your heart being hardened (Hebrews 3:13).